

On-Site Wastewater Training Center

Project Description: The Alabama Onsite Wastewater Training Center was established to fill a need for education in the field of wastewater treatment. Approximately 70 million homes in the U.S. have septic tank systems. It has been reported that approximately 75% of the septic tank disposal systems in Alabama are presently failing or are expected to fail. Most of these systems do not have filters. The failure of traditional septic tank systems causes excessive amounts of untreated septage to flow into nearby waterbodies. This failure is due to inadequate soil percolation rates, improper installation, and the lack of routine maintenance. Installation of alternative onsite systems will help to reduce nonpoint source (NPS) pollution entering the State's waters.

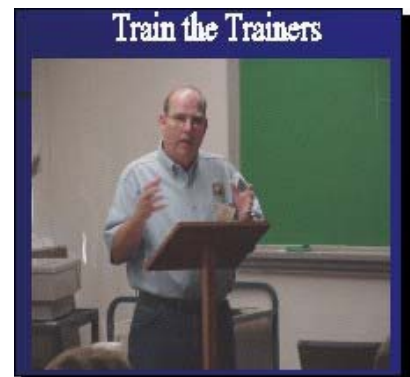


Training Center objectives are to: 1) protect surface and groundwater; 2) provide a centralized treatment training center; 3) provide educational outreach opportunities; and 4) demonstrate new and innovative alternative systems. The mission of the Center is to develop, demonstrate, and compare properly installed onsite wastewater systems to bring about changes in attitude and behavior. Functional alternative systems and demonstration models have been installed at the Center. The functional systems are sand, peat, controlled fill, aerobic with drip emitter, open cell foam, composting toilet, and a constructed wetland. Some

of these systems are also installed as demonstration models. The demonstration sites provide an aboveground view of how the systems function below ground.

At the Center, training is provided for installers, engineers, soil surveyors, state officials, and home owners. Classes offered include:

- Advanced licensing that allows installation of alternative systems.
- Soil characteristics related to onsite system installation and performance.
- Design and engineering of alternative systems.
- State regulations related to onsite systems.
- Installation, maintenance, and trouble shooting of alternative onsite systems.



In addition to the classes, one day continuing education courses are offered for members of the industry. An instructional video on the alternative onsite systems will be distributed to installers, homebuilders, public officials, home owners and other stakeholders. Through the

training and technologies demonstrated at the Center, water quality in the State will be improved and the quality of life will be enhanced for citizens.

Lead Agency: Tombigbee Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D)

Funding: EPA 319: \$208,529 **Matching:** \$278,850 **Other:** \$40,000

Project Location: AL, University of West Alabama - Livingston (Applicable Statewide)

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For More Information Contact:

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